



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE
**4TH CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY
TO ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a fourth co-defendant pleaded guilty in federal court today to her involvement in a methamphetamine conspiracy. The guilty plea, Graves said, is the result of work completed by the NITRO Task Force.

Stacy Todd Davis, 34, address unknown, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Davis** admitted that she conspired with others to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2003, in Grundy County, Mo.

Davis is the fourth co-defendant to plead guilty in this case. Two co-defendants have already been sentenced.

On Aug. 25, 2004, **Gary Michael Swafford**, 31, address unknown, was sentenced to five years in federal prison without parole. On April 13, 2004, **Swafford** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2003, in Grundy County.

On Aug. 4, 2004, **Laurie E. Baker**, 21, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to two years in federal prison without parole. On March 12, 2004, **Baker** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, she admitted that the conspiracy took place between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2003, in Grundy County, Mo.

On June 28, 2004, **Patricia Jean Chipps**, 36, also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to

manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2003, in Grundy County.

Each of the co-defendants was charged in a sealed indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 17, 2003, in Kansas City. The indictment was unsealed and made public upon the defendants' arrest and first appearance in court on Sept. 24, 2003, in Kansas City.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Grundy County, Mo., Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Trenton, Mo., Police Department, the Mercer County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Daviess County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the NITRO Task Force. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

